CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Presented) A fermentation process suitable for the preparation of a desired L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-isoleucine, L-valine, and L-lysine, wherein the following steps are carried out:

a) fermentation of an *E.coli* strain in a fermentation broth for producing the desired L-amino acid, wherein the endogenous gene encoding phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) carboxykinase (*pck*A gene) of *E.coli* is inactivated by one or more methods of mutagenesis selected from the group consisting of deletion, insertional mutagenesis due to homologous recombination, and transition or traversion mutagenesis with incorporation of a non-sense mutation in the *pck*A gene, and

b) concentration of the fermentation broth to eliminate water and increase the concentration of said L-amino acids in the broth and *E.coli* , and

c) isolation of the L-amino acids.

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein one or more *E.coli* genes selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the thrABC operon coding for aspartate kinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase,

(b) the pps gene coding for phosphoenolpyruvate synthase,

(c) the ppc gene coding for phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase,

(d) the pntA and pntB genes coding for transhydrogenase,

(e) the rhtB gene for homoserine resistance,

(f) the rhtC gene for threonine resistance, and

(g) the gdhA gene coding for glutamate dehydrogenase

are overexpressed by increasing the copy number or placed under a strong promoter during fermentation for the preparation of said L-amino acids.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein one or more *E.coli* genes selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the tdh gene coding for threonine dehydrogenase,

(b) the mdh gene coding for malate dehydrogenase,

(c) the gene product of the open reading frame (orf) yjfA, and

(d) the gene product of the open reading frame (orf) ytfP,

are inactivated by one or more methods of mutagenesis selected from the group consisting of deletion, insertional mutagenesis due to homologous recombination, and transition or traversion mutagenesis with incorporation of a non-sense mutation in the *pck*A gene ~~during fermentation for the preparation of said L-amino acids~~.

8-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein constituents of the fermentation broth and the biomass in its entirety or portions thereof ~~being~~ are isolated as a solid product together with said L-amino acids.

29. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein L-threonine is produced by fermenting the E. coli strain MG442ΔpckA deposited under DSM13761.

30. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein L-threonine is produced by fermenting E. coli strain B-3996kurΔtdhΔpckA/pVIC40 deposited under DSM14150.